

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO.
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	JUDGE
v.	)	
	)	
THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT	)	
41079 SPRING HILL DRIVE, LEETONIA,	)	
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO;	)	
PARCEL NUMBERS: 16-01867.028 AND	)	
16-01867.009,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	<b>COMPLAINT IN FORFEITURE</b>

NOW COMES plaintiff, the United States of America, by Justin E. Herdman, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and James L. Morford, Assistant U.S. Attorney, and files this Complaint in Forfeiture, respectfully alleging as follows in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure:

JURISDICTION AND INTRODUCTION

1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over an action commenced by the United States under 28 U.S.C. Section 1345, and over an action for forfeiture under 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(a). This Court also has jurisdiction over this particular action under 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(C) and 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(A).

2. This Court has *in rem* jurisdiction over the defendant real property (hereinafter, “defendant property”) under 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b). Further, in this regard, the United States

will post notice of this action and a copy of the Complaint in Forfeiture on the defendant property in accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 985(c)(1)(B).

3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to: (i) 28 U.S.C. Section 1355(b)(1) because acts giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in this district; and, (ii) 28 U.S.C. Section 1395(b) because the defendant property is located in this district.

4. The defendant property is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(C) in that it constitutes – or is derived from – proceeds traceable to violation(s) of 18 U.S.C. Section 1347 (health care fraud) and 18 U.S.C. Section 1349 (conspiracy to commit health care fraud).

5. The defendant property also is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(A) in that it was involved in a transaction(s) in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1957 (money laundering), or is property traceable to such property.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFENDANT PROPERTY**

6. The defendant property, including all fixtures, improvements, and appurtenances, is known and numbered as 41079 Spring Hill Drive, Leetonia, Columbiana County, Ohio. Ryan Sheridan also uses another street address for the property; namely, 3171 Wilderness Drive, Leetonia, Ohio.

7. The legal description of the defendant property is as follows:

*Parcel Number 1: 16-01867.028.* Situated in the County of Columbiana, State of Ohio and the Township of Fairfield:

Situated in the Northwest Quarter of Section 20, Fairfield Township (T-12, R-2), Columbiana County and State of Ohio and being further bounded and described as follows:

Beginning for reference at an iron pin found on the northwest corner of Section 20 said iron pin also being on the centerline of Bonesville School Road, a sixty foot wide Road and being at the northwest corner of the Retreat-Second Addition, as recorded in Plat

Book 16, Page 62 of the Columbiana County Record of Plats; thence South 0 degrees 02 minutes 46 seconds East (reference bearing) along the west line of Section 20 and the west line of Lots 13 and 14 of said Retreat-Second Addition a distance of 647.84 feet to a 5/8 inch iron pin set at the southwest corner of Lot 14 and being the true place of beginning of the parcel herein; thence North 50 degrees 06 minutes 45 seconds East along the southerly line of said Lot 14, a distance of 370.30 feet to a 5/8" iron pin found on the southerly right of way line of Spring Hill Drive, a sixty foot wide Road; thence along said southerly right of way line of Spring Hill Drive along a curve to the left having a central angle of 80 degrees 50 minutes 44 seconds, a radius of 60 feet, an arc length of 84.66 feet. A tangent of 51.11 feet, a chord length of 77.81 feet and a chord bearing of South 80 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds East to an iron pin found at a point of curvature of said southerly right of way line of Spring Hill Drive along a curve to the right, having a central angle of 49 degrees 40 minutes 47 seconds, a radius of 25.00 feet, an arc length of 21.68 feet and a chord bearing North an arc length of 21.68 feet, a tangent of 11.57 feet, a chord length of 21.00 feet and a chord bearing of North 84 degrees 06 minutes 32 seconds East to an iron pin found at a point of tangency of said southerly right of way line of Spring Hill Drive; thence continuing along said southerly right of way line of Spring Hill Drive South 71 degrees 03 minutes 04 seconds East, a distance of 134.49 feet to an iron pin found on a point of curvature on the westerly right of way line of proposed Wilderness Drive, a sixty foot wide Road; thence along said westerly right of way line of proposed Wilderness Drive on a curve to the right having a central angle of 103 degrees 54 minutes 21 seconds, a radius of 25.00, an arc length of 45.34 feet, a tangent of 31.94 feet, a chord length of 39.38 feet, and a chord bearing of South 19 degrees 05 minutes 54 seconds East to an iron pin found at a point of tangency of said westerly right of way line of proposed Wilderness Drive; thence South 32 degrees 51 minutes 17 seconds West continuing with said westerly right of way a distance of 282.78 feet to a 5/8" iron pin set at a point of curvature; thence continuing with said westerly right of way on a curve to the left having a central angle of 31 degrees 19 minutes 19 seconds, a radius of 480.00, an arc length of 262.40 feet, a tangent of 134.57 feet, a chord length of 259.15 feet, and a chord bearing of South 17 degrees 11 minutes 37 seconds West to a 5/8 inch iron pin set at a point of tangency; thence South 1 degree 31 minutes 58 seconds West continuing with said westerly right of way line, a distance of 211.01 feet to a 5/8 inch iron pin set; thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 14 seconds West a distance of 285.71 feet to a 5/8 inch iron pin set on aforesaid west line of Section 20, said iron pin also being the west property line of Charles L. Beiling, Trustee of the Charles L. Beiling Trust, as recorded in ORV 832, Page 484 of the Columbiana County Record of Deeds; thence North 0 degrees 02 minutes 46 seconds west along said west line of Section 20, and along said lands of Beiling, a distance of 550.64 feet to the place of beginning, containing 5.810 acres of land, more or less and being subject to all legal highways, rights of way and easements. The bearings cited herein are based upon an assumed meridian. The above described parcel formerly being a part of the aforesaid property owned by Charles L. Beiling Trustee, as recorded in ORV 832, Page 484 of said county record of deeds. This description was prepared by David E. Vollnogle, Ohio Registered Surveyor No. 6958 in July 2006 and is based upon a survey supervised by him.

*Parcel Number 2: 16-01867.009.* Known as and being a tract of land situated in the Northwest Quarter of Section #20, Fairfield Township, Township #12, range #2, Columbiana County, State of Ohio and being more fully described as follows: Beginning with the Northwest corner of said Section #20, Thence S.  $00^{\circ} 03' -46''$  E with the section line a distance of 1198.65 feet to an iron pin found at the southwest corner of lands now or formerly of Donald R. & Dawn M. Arthurs (O.R.V. #1482, Page #514) and the true place of beginning of the tract of land herein described; Thence N.  $89^{\circ} 57' 04''$  E with the south line of said Arthurs lands, a distance of 285.64 feet to an iron pin found at the southeast corner of said Arthurs lands, thence N  $01^{\circ} 34' 12''$  E with the east line of said Arthurs lands a distance of 211.11 feet to an iron pin found, thence continuing with the east line of said Arthurs lands with a curve to the right having a radius of 480.00 feet, an arc length of 262.41 feet, a chord bearing of N  $17^{\circ} 10' 38''$  E and a chord distance of 259.15 feet to an iron pin set, thence continuing with the east line of said Arthurs lands N  $32^{\circ} 51' 54''$  E distance of 282.78 feet to an iron pin found, thence S  $57^{\circ} 08' 06''$  E with the southerly line of Wilderness Drive a distance of 60.00 feet to an iron pin set, thence N  $32^{\circ} 51' 54''$  E with the east line of said Wilderness Drive a distance of 27.24 feet to an iron pin found, thence with said Wilderness Drive with a curve to the right having a radius of 25.00 feet, an arc length of 33.17 feet, a chord bearing of N  $70^{\circ} 49' 30''$  E and a chord distance of 30.79 feet to an iron pin found, thence S  $71^{\circ} 03' 04''$  E with the south line of Spring Hill Drive a distance of 125.44 feet to an iron pin found at the northwest corner of Lot #15 of The Retreat 2nd Addition as recorded in Plat Book #16, Page #62 of the Columbiana County Record of Plats, thence S  $00^{\circ} 03' 46''$  E with the west line of said Lot #15 and the west line of lands now or formerly of Charles L. Beiling Trustee of the Charles L. Beiling Trust (O.R.V. #832, Page #484) a distance of 1279.35 feet to an iron pin set, but passing through an iron pin found at a distance of 484.12 feet at the southwest corner of said Lot #15 and an iron pin set at a distance of 909.35 feet, thence N  $89^{\circ} 54' 51''$  W with the north line of lands now or formerly of William T. & Sandra E. Vidis (O.R.V. #1766, Page #715, Joseph C. & Susan R. Flasco (O.R.V. #1070, Page #851), Jennifer J. Gallo (O.R.V. #1720, Page #54) and Aaron & Dawn Schwab (O.R.V. #1632, Page #285) a distance of 735.03 feet to an iron pin found at the northwest corner of said Schwab lands, thence N  $00^{\circ} 03' 46''$  W with the west section line a distance of 622.17 feet to the place of beginning of the tract of land herein described. Containing in area 16.5454 acres and being subject to all legal highways, right of ways and easements. All iron pins set are 5/8" in diameter re-bar 30" long with I.D. Caps bearing Chamberlin #6744. The reference bearing of S  $71^{\circ} 03' 04''$  E was assumed for the center line of Spring Hill Drive. This description is based on a survey prepared by Keith A. Chamberlin P.S. #6744 January 4, 2013 and being a part of lands now or formerly of Charles L. Beiling, Trustee of the Charles L. Beiling Trust (O.R.V. #832, Page 484).

8. The record owner of the defendant property is 41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC.
9. 41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC, is a sole member limited liability company. Ryan Sheridan is the sole member and sole manager of the company, serving as the company president and/or treasurer.
10. The defendant property is valued at approximately \$959,300.00.

## FORFEITURE

### I. *Background: Braking Point Recovery Center and Ryan Sheridan*

11. Braking Point Recovery Center (“Braking Point”) was an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center that provided detox, intensive outpatient treatment, day treatment, and supplemental living rehabilitation. On January 12, 2015, Ryan Sheridan, through the Ohio Secretary of State, obtained a trade name for Braking Point at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 1000, Austintown, Ohio 44515, and listed the general nature of the business as providing intensive outpatient treatment, drug testing, and house arrest. On November 3, 2015, Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC, was formed. Sheridan is the 100% owner.

12. Ryan Sheridan is the founder and owner of Braking Point. Prior to operating Braking Point, Sheridan worked at a driver’s intervention program for individuals convicted of driving under the influence. Sheridan resides at the defendant property.

13. JMS is Ryan Sheridan’s ex-wife. JMS was responsible for billing health insurance companies for the services provided at or by Braking Point. JMS resides in Austintown, Ohio.

14. KG was the Program Director for Braking Point’s facility in Austintown, Ohio. On November 14, 2012, KG obtained a Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) license by the State of Ohio.

15. On January 25, 2016, Braking Point Health and Fitness, LLC, was formed in the State of Ohio. Ryan Sheridan is the 100% owner.

16. On March 21, 2016, Braking Point Recovery Housing, LLC, was formed in the State of Ohio. Ryan Sheridan is the 100% owner. This company was established for the ownership of recovery houses, also known as “sober” homes. Sober homes are alcohol and

drug-free living environments for individuals attempting to maintain abstinence from alcohol and drugs. They offer no formal treatment, but often mandate or strongly encourage attendance at 12-step groups. According to the Mahoning County Auditor, Braking Point Recovery Housing owns property at xxx Alameda Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio; and, xxx Alameda Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. Braking Point Residential Housing, LLC, is listed on the Auditor's website as the owner of xxx Midlothian Blvd., Youngstown, Ohio.

17. On July 15, 2016, Braking Point Recovery Center of Central Ohio, LLC, was formed for the expansion of a new treatment facility at 4040 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio. Per the operating agreement executed on August 12, 2016, Ryan Sheridan and TD each have a 50% ownership interest in Braking Point Recovery Center of Central Ohio, LLC. On May 19, 2017, Braking Point Physicians Care of Central Ohio, LLC, was formed in the State of Ohio for the 4040 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio, location.

18. On March 24, 2017, Braking Point Transportation Services, LLC, was formed in the State of Ohio. Ryan Sheridan is the 100% owner.

19. On June 8, 2017, Braking Point Recovery Center of Wooster, LLC, was formed in the State of Ohio for a new office located at 230 North Market Street, Wooster, Ohio. Ryan Sheridan also formed Wooster Homeless Shelter and Felon Reintegration Program, LLC.

20. In addition to these companies, Ryan Sheridan has also formed and solely owned the following companies for the purchase of properties, vehicles, and restaurant management: Sheridan's Cool Cars, LLC; Sheridan's Irish Pub, LLC; Sheridan Construction, LLC; Sheridan Leasing Company, LLC; Sheridan Land Management, LLC; Sheridan Property Group, LLC; Sheridan Enterprises, LLC; The Youngstown Tap House, LLC; C&S Land Holdings, LLC;

41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC (the record owner of the defendant property); and, 131 Commerce, LLC.

21. In approximately December, 2016, the FBI began an investigation into Braking Point, working jointly with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations (HHS-OIG), the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations (IRS CI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Ohio Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). The investigation was opened based on hotline complaints from former employees of the business and the high volume of Medicaid reimbursements.

22. Search warrants were executed on October 18, 2017, at Braking Point locations in Austintown, Ohio, and Whitehall, Ohio, as well as the defendant property (the personal residence of Ryan Sheridan) and the personal residence of JMS.

## **II. Health Care Benefit Programs**

23. The term "health care benefit program," as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 24, means any "public or private plan or contract, affecting commerce, under which any medical benefit, item or service" was provided to any individual, and includes any individual or entity who provides a medical benefit, item or service for which payment may be made under the plan or contract. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is the agency responsible for the administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

24. Medicaid is a federal health care benefit program designated to provide medical services to certain individuals and families with low income as outlined in the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396, *et seq.*). Medicaid is a health care benefit program in that it is a public plan, affecting commerce, under which a medical benefit, item, or service is provided to



individuals, and for which payment may be made under the plan or contract. The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds approximately 62 percent of Ohio's Medicaid program. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) administers the Medicaid program in Ohio. Ohio medical providers claim Medicaid reimbursement from ODM pursuant to written provider agreements. ODM receives, processes, and pays those claims according to Medicaid rules, regulations, and procedures.

25. Medicaid is a health care benefit program as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 24. Medicaid pays health care providers, pursuant to written agreements, based on reasonable charges for covered services provided to beneficiaries.

### **III. Braking Point Medicaid Application**

26. In order to be reimbursed by Medicaid for pharmacy or medical services, a provider rendering a service to Medicaid beneficiaries must have entered into a "provider agreement" with ODM in which the provider agreed to comply with all applicable state and federal statutes, regulations, and guidelines.

27. As the owner of Braking Point, Ryan Sheridan entered into a contract with ODM called a Provider Agreement, in which they agreed to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Medicaid program. This agreement allowed Sheridan to bill for medical services rendered by Braking Point to Medicaid recipients.

28. On May 11, 2015, Braking Point submitted an application to become an Ohio Medicaid provider. Ryan Sheridan signed the application as the "Direct Owner" and "Executive Director". For the type of entity or practice, the application listed sole proprietorship. The application listed the practice location as 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 1000, Youngstown, Ohio 44515. Sheridan listed on the application his convictions from 1998 through



June 26, 2003, including possession of drugs, operating a vehicle impaired, domestic violence, and menacing.

29. Specifically, on May 11, 2015, Ryan Sheridan agreed to the statement, “My electronic signature legally and financially binds this provider to the law, regulations, and program instructions of the Ohio Medicaid program. By selecting the signature checkbox and submitting the application, I agree to abide by these terms.” Some of the terms outlined in the Medicaid application Sheridan signed are as follows:

- a.) This provider agreement is a contract between the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the undersigned provider of medical assistance services in which the Provider agrees to comply with the terms of this provider agreement, state statutes, Ohio Administrative Code rules, and Federal statutes and rules.
- b.) Render medical assistance services as medically necessary for the patient and only in the amount required by the patient without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex, national origin, source(s) of payment, or handicap, submit claims only for services actually performed, and bill the Department for no more than the usual and customary fee charged other patients for the same service.
- c.) Maintain all records necessary and in such form so as to fully disclose the extent of services provided and significant business transactions. The provider will maintain such records for a period of six years from the date of receipt of payment based upon those records or until any initiated audit is completed, whichever is longer.
- d.) To follow the regulations and policies set forth in the appropriate edition of the Medicaid Handbook.

30. On October 18, 2017, during the execution of the search warrants, agents interviewed Ryan Sheridan. He acknowledged his familiarity with the application and was able to explain the above points outlined in the Medicaid application in layman’s terms.

31. Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Ohio Medicaid Program, Medicaid only pays for services that are actually performed by qualified individuals, are medically necessary, and provided in accordance with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations.

32. Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Ohio Medicaid Program, Medicaid would not reimburse providers for non-covered services.

33. In addition, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Ohio Medicaid Program, Medicaid would not permit providers to limit housing options or selection of coverage for a Medicaid beneficiary or recipient.

34. Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Ohio Medicaid Program, Medicaid only reimbursed providers for mental health services if the services were provided by licensed professionals, or under the supervision of licensed professionals.

35. Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistants (CDCAs) are regulated by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (OCDP Board). Pursuant to OCDP Board rules and regulations, CDCAs can perform treatment planning, assessment, crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, case management, and education services as they relate to the abuse of, or dependency on, alcohol and other drugs. However, to do so, CDCAs must have been supervised by a licensed individual, including: an independent chemical dependency counselor, clinical supervisor, or counselor III; a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine; a registered nurse, or certified nurse practitioner (if within the scope of their practice); or, a professional clinical counselor, independent social worker, or independent marriage and family therapist. Pursuant to OCDP Board rules and regulations, CDCAs cannot practice as individual practitioners. OAC § 4758-6-01.

36. Under the provider agreement with Medicaid, Sheridan agreed to bill Medicaid only for services the provider actually rendered, were medically necessary to diagnose and treat illness or injury, and for which the provider maintained adequate supporting documentation. A service or item of equipment is defined as medically necessary when provided “[f]or the

treatment of an injury, sickness, or other health condition and was: (i) appropriate and consistent with the diagnosis or symptoms, and consistent with accepted medical standards; (ii) not chiefly custodial in nature; (iii) not investigational, experimental or unproven; and, (iv) not excessive in scope, duration, or intensity to provide safe, adequate, and appropriate treatment.”

37. Under the provider agreement with Medicaid, Ryan Sheridan agreed to create and maintain documents supporting the claims Braking Point submitted, including patient medical records, and assessment and treatment records for each Medicaid beneficiary.

38. Under the provider agreement with Medicaid, Ryan Sheridan agreed to bill Medicaid within the benefit limits provided by ODM. Services covered by ODM are found at <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov/forohioans/coveredservices.aspx>.

39. Providers submit a claim form, normally electronically, to make claims for payment to Medicaid. ODM processes each health insurance claim form and issues payment to the provider for the approved services. As a provider, Ryan Sheridan submitted claims to ODM certifying that Braking Point provided treatment that was medically necessary for the health of the patient, provided by a qualified individual, and actually given to the patient as documented.

#### **IV. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) Certification of Braking Point Facilities**

40. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) has statutory and regulatory authority over providers of mental health and addiction services provided to Ohio consumers. OMHAS licenses providers of mental health and addiction services. Separate standards apply depending on the type of provider and level of service provided.

41. A provider who wishes to obtain licensure from OMHAS must submit an application and indicate the types of services that will be provided. A substance use disorder

(SUD) provider must identify whether it is an “outpatient” or “residential/inpatient” provider on the application. An “opioid treatment program” or “OTP” is designated as an “outpatient provider” service.

42. In addition, an OMHAS licensed OTP must comply with all state and federal rules and regulations. This includes complying with all DEA requirements.

43. On February 2, 2015, Braking Point submitted an Application for Certification to OMHAS listing its location at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 1000, Austintown, Ohio 44515. The Application listed Ryan Sheridan as the contact person/owner. The application was seeking certification of Outpatient Treatment and Prevention, and Sheridan signed it on January 29, 2015.

44. On May 5, 2015, OMHAS certified Braking Point Recovery Center, located at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 1000, Austintown, Ohio 44515, to operate an outpatient alcohol and drug addiction program.

45. On September 11, 2015, Braking Point submitted a faxed application seeking certification of a detoxification program to OMHAS, and listed its location at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, 3rd Floor, Austintown, Ohio 44515. Ryan Sheridan signed this application as the “Executive Director” on September 11, 2015.

46. On September 14, 2015, OMHAS certified Braking Point Recovery Center, located at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 1000, Austintown, Ohio 44515, to operate a detoxification program.

47. On December 21, 2016, Braking Point submitted an application to OMHAS requesting to add a new facility at 4040 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio 43213. The application listed Ryan Sheridan as the Owner and Executive Director with an e-mail contact of

*emhaohio@gmail.com*. The application stated that the services to be provided at this new location were intervention, assessment, crisis management, case management, individual counseling, family counseling, intensive outpatient, urinalysis, medical somatic, sub-acute detoxification, and adjunctive alcohol and/or drug services. The date Braking Point listed as when they intended to start providing these services was January 3, 2017.

48. On December 20, 2016, Ryan Sheridan signed the application as the owner of the Whitehall Braking Point location. Above Sheridan's signature on the application there was a declaration stating the following:

I understand that this application, including all attachments, for Certification to provide Community Mental Health Services and activities in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code chapters 5122-24 through 5122-29 and/or Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment, Residential (including Halfway House) Detoxification, Driver Intervention Programs and/or Prevention services and activities in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code Chapters 3793:2-1, 3793:2-2, 3793:2-5, 3793:2-6, 3793:4 and/or 3793:5 represents our compliance with the requirements of the laws of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Administrative Code.

49. On December 29, 2016, OMHAS certified Braking Point Recovery Center for the operation of outpatient and detoxification services at 4040 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio 43213.

50. On April 21, 2017, Braking Point submitted an application to OMHAS to provide Outpatient Treatment at 25 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 25, Youngstown, Ohio. On April 17, 2017, Ryan Sheridan signed this application as the Owner/Executive Director.

51. On June 5, 2017, OMHAS received an application from Braking Point to provide Detox and Outpatient Treatment at 230 North Market Street, Wooster, Ohio.

52. On October 18, 2017, during the execution of the search warrants, agents interviewed Ryan Sheridan and he identified his signature on all of the aforementioned applications, which were submitted to OMHAS for Braking Point Recovery Center.

## **V. Medicaid Billing**

53. Medical providers and health care benefit programs use well-known and standard insurance processing codes to identify certain medical diagnoses and medical treatments and procedures. The American Medical Association assigned and published five-digit codes, known as the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, that identify the services rendered for which reimbursement is sought. Each CPT or HCPCS code refers to a specific service as described in their respective manuals.

54. Medical providers record diagnoses and medical procedures on a standard claim form, which is then sent to the patient's health care benefit program. CPT or HCPCS codes must be designated on the claim forms by the health care provider and then submitted electronically to the health care benefit program, such as Medicaid, for payment.

55. Providers who seek reimbursement for providing alcohol and/or drug treatment services are required to use specific HCPCS codes related to that treatment. For example, HCPCS Code H0016 - designated "alcohol/drug svc-medical/somatic (ambulatory setting)" - should be utilized with patients who require "medical services, medication administration services, medication assisted treatment, and the dispensing of medications in an alcohol and other drug treatment program." OAC § 3793:2-1-08. These services must be provided by a "physician, registered nurse or licensed practical nurse." If provided by an LPN, the provision of medical services "shall be supervised by a registered nurse ... or a physician."

56. HCPCS Code H0006 is designated for "alcohol and/or drug services; case management." H0006 should be utilized with patients who require assistance and support in "gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services essential to meeting

basic human needs.” OAC § 3793:2-1-08. Case management does not include working out in a gym or watching movies.

57. H0014 is designated for “alcohol/drug svc – ambulatory detoxification.” H0014 should be utilized with patients “suffering mild to moderate symptoms of withdrawal for the purpose of alcohol and/or drug detoxification.” OAC § 3793:2-1-08. This service shall be supervised by a physician and provided by an “outpatient program that is certified by the department of alcohol and drug addiction services.”

58. H0015 is designated for “alcohol/drug svc – intensive outpatient” also known as “IOP”. H0015 should be utilized with patients receiving “structured individual and group alcohol and drug addiction activities and services that are provided at a certified treatment program site for a minimum of eight hours per week with services provided at least three days per week.” OAC § 3793:2-1-08. The treatment program must be “certified by the department of alcohol and drug addiction services.” IOP is reimbursed at a per diem/daily rate, and includes: assessment, individual and group counseling, and crisis intervention as needed. Therefore, other HCPCS codes should not be billed on the same day when IOP is billed.

59. H0005 is designated for “alcohol/drug svc – group counsel by clinician.” H0005 is utilized for patients receiving group counseling. Group counseling shall be provided at a ratio of no more than 12:1 (12 patients to one counselor).

60. The procedures and services represented by HCPCS codes are health care benefits, items, and services, within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 24(b).

61. For Medicaid to reimburse a provider for the above described HCPCS codes, a provider must be licensed appropriately by OMHAS.



62. ODM will reimburse Medicaid providers for medically necessary behavioral health services, such as drug addiction treatment services, provided in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations. ODM created specific benefit limits, which include: a limitation of thirty (30) hours per week of combined services (including individual counseling, group counseling, and medical somatic); and, intensive outpatient and ambulatory detoxification should not be billed on the same day in that ambulatory detoxification is reimbursed at a one day/per diem rate, as is intensive outpatient treatment.

63. ODM's benefit limits are in addition to the basic tenets of the Medicaid program that include a service must be medically necessary, actually provided to the patient, and in accordance with all other state and federal rules and regulations. For example, back-to-back drug testing without enough time for the drug to clear the individual's system is medically unnecessary and is not reimbursable by the Medicaid program. OAC § 5160-1-01.

64. A review of Braking Point's billing illustrates that Braking Point often billed patients for IOP in conjunction with H0001 (alcohol and/or drug assessment), H0004 (behavior health counseling & treatment), H0005, or H0007 (alcohol/drug services – crisis intervention – outpatient). In addition, Braking Point often billed patients a combination of H0004, H0005, and H0016 in excess of the 30 hour per week benefit limit.

65. From May 12, 2015 through October 12, 2017, Braking Point submitted 134,744 claims and Medicaid paid Braking Point \$31,099,469.15. Braking Point used the same billing provider number for its locations in Austintown, Ohio and Whitehall, Ohio. On or about October 18, 2017, Medicaid issued a notice of suspension of payments to Braking Point based upon "a credible allegation of fraud".

66. Below is a summary of the charges Braking Point submitted to Medicaid:

Procedure Code	Procedure	# of Claims	Billed Amount	Paid Amount
H0016	Alcohol/drug svc - medical/somatic (ambulatory setting)	28,972	\$22,952,486.28	\$15,957,148.84
H0006	Alcohol and/or drug services; case management	35,278	\$11,649,774.35	\$6,196,515.51
H0014	Alcohol/drug svc - ambulatory detoxification	13,454	\$3,714,507.40	\$2,600,766.05
H0015	Alcohol/drug svc - intensive outpatient program	14,459	\$3,532,556.80	\$1,967,937.50
H0005	Alcohol/drug services - group counsel by clinician	19,170	\$4,423,527.00	\$2,782,647.56
H0003	Alcohol/drug screen-lab analysis of specimens	10,789	\$973,868.50	\$648,870.00
H0001	Alcohol and/or drug assessment	2,944	\$563,424.40	\$415,534.42
H0007	Alcohol/drug services - crisis intervention-outpatient	1,675	\$314,781.80	\$221,246.09
H0004	Behavior health counseling & treatment per 15 min	4,406	\$411,463.40	\$301,613.10
J8499	Prescription drug, oral, nonchemotherapeutic	3,593	\$14,757.40	\$7,190.08
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>134,744</b>	<b>\$48,551,267.33</b>	<b>\$31,099,469.15</b>

## **VI. OMHAS Initial Survey of Braking Point**

67. On June 30, 2015, OMHAS performed an on-site inspection at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Austintown, Ohio, for the initial certification of Braking Point. Ryan Sheridan and KG signed the attendance roster for this survey as the Executive Director and Program Director. OMHAS found Braking Point's program treatment services supervisor did not have documentation of regularly scheduled individual and/or group supervision sessions, developed written goals and methods for supervision that are agreed upon with the supervisee, or documentation of what occurred during supervision goals, as required by OAC § 3793:2-1-5(K)(1-3).

68. At this initial inspection, OMHAS cited Braking Point for assessment documents that did not contain a valid diagnosis, client records did not include a diagnosis by licensed individuals, as required by OAC § 3793:2-1-06(I), and the program's client records did not include an individualized treatment plan that was written within seven days of completion of the assessment or at the time of the first face-to-face contact following the assessment, as required by OAC § 3793:2-1-06(L). OMHAS also found client's records did not include an individualized treatment plan that identified problems to be addressed, client's records did not include measurable goals, progress notes did not include content to justify the client's continuing need for services, and each service was not documented with a progress note, as required in OAC § 3793:2-1-06.

69. On July 6, 2015, OMHAS provided Braking Point with a Program Certification Report outlining all deficiencies, and gave Braking Point until August 4, 2015 to provide a Corrective Action Plan. For its Corrective Action Plan to address the deficiencies, Braking Point submitted policy and procedure manual pages.

## **VII. OMHAS Site Survey of Whitehall Location**

70. On April 14, 2017, OMHAS performed a site survey at Braking Point's office at 4040 East Broad Street, Whitehall, Ohio. OMHAS reviewed five charts during the survey. The charts were found to be in serious non-compliance because they were missing key elements of the patient's assessment, lacked a proper treatment plan, did not contain case management and progress notes, did not contain drug test results, and did not contain other requirements outlined in 42 Code of Federal Regulations. The review of client records revealed that the clinical records of clients receiving case management services did not demonstrate the assessed need for case management, and the individual treatment plans did not list case management as a service to be delivered. OMHAS reviewed personnel files and found the files did not contain all required elements outlined in OAC § 5122-26-06.

## **VIII. OMHAS Subsequent Site Survey of Austintown Location**

71. On June 14, 2017, OMHAS performed an unannounced site survey at Braking Point's facility at 45 North Canfield Road, Austintown, Ohio. The survey consisted of a site tour, interviewing patients, reviewing personnel records, and reviewing patient medical records. This survey was conducted based on concerns Braking Point was operating 34 unlicensed inpatient beds.

72. On January 21, 2016, OMHAS received an application seeking certification of a residential treatment facility at 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Suite 1000, Austintown, Ohio. Ryan Sheridan listed himself as the Owner/Executive Director. KG was listed as a point of contact. Dr. VM was listed as the Medical Director, and Dr. AS was listed as the Acting Medical Director. According to OMHAS surveyors, Braking Point verbally requested the application for residential beds be withdrawn, but did not submit a formal written request.

73. Ryan Sheridan and KG gave the OMHAS surveyors a tour of the facility. The facility consists of a large building with three floors. The third floor has a reception area and administrative offices. KG showed the surveyors his/her office and Sheridan's office on this floor. Sheridan showed the surveyors a file room. The file room had shelves with paper chart notes in manila folders and boxes filled with paper. In the middle of the file room, the surveyors observed a table containing a stack of papers about 2-3 feet high.

74. As part of the tour, the surveyors saw the second floor of 45 North Canfield Road. The second floor is used for outpatient day treatment for transitional clients. Ryan Sheridan told surveyors he owns a recovery house called "Midlothian." Patients are placed at Midlothian after detox and are transported to Braking Point in vans. Sheridan stated Braking Point pays for the patient to stay at Midlothian for one month.

75. Sheridan also showed the surveyors the first floor at Braking Point. The first floor has a detox unit with 16 beds and a supplemental unit with 34 beds.

76. The OMHAS surveyor interviewed patient "E", who was in transitional treatment. "E" told the surveyor he/she was in detox for five days and, then, placed in a supplemental bed for 1½ weeks. "E" complained that supplemental treatment was crowded and there were no individual sessions. "E" lives at Midlothian and is transported by van to Braking Point where he/she attends Intensive Outpatient Therapy (IOP) three days a week for three hours.

77. The OMHAS surveyor interviewed patient "J", who was in the supplemental unit. "J" told the surveyor he/she had been to Braking Point four or five different times for treatment. "J" was in detox for seven days and would be in residential for 28 days. "J" is receiving Suboxone, which is a Schedule III buprenorphine drug used to treat drug addiction.

78. The OMHAS surveyor interviewed "C". "C" told the surveyor Braking Point will pay for him/her to stay one month at Gypsy Place, another sober house, if he/she completes the 28-day supplemental treatment. Braking Point will transport "C" to Braking Point for treatment and doctor's appointments.

79. During this June 14, 2017 site survey, OMHAS reviewed charts and found many of the case management notes did not have a credentialed supervisor signing off on the notes. Some of the case management notes were for questionable treatment, including working out at a gym and a counselor buying a patient's cigarettes. Additionally, OMHAS found group notes did not have the patient's name on the top, and it appeared Braking Point put the same note in all the group participants' charts. The charts reviewed by OMHAS had no documentation about the level of care patients need. The assessments of the patients were not completed properly and goals were very generic. The treatment plans did not outline frequency of treatments. The chart notes showed unqualified employees diagnosing patients. Crisis intervention notes written in the charts were for issues that do not qualify as crisis.

80. The Medicaid billings for patient CK were reviewed. CK was interviewed by OMHAS surveyors on June 14, 2017. Patient CK told OMHAS that in January 2017 patient CK was in detox for seven days at Braking Point. After completing detox, Braking Point placed CK in the 28-day inpatient supplemental program. CK then lived at a sober living house for three months. On April 15, 2017, CK relapsed and was re-admitted to Braking Point. According to Medicaid billing data, CK had billings for detox for seven days and for the inpatient 28-day supplemental. From January 11, 2017 through February 13, 2017 (excluding January 20, 2017), Braking Point received \$34,914.00 for the treatment of patient CK. The analysis of patient CK's

Medicaid billing shows Braking Point is billing Medicaid for 28 days of treatment in unlicensed beds.

81. Braking Point was not permitted to operate as a residential facility, because they failed to obtain the appropriate licensure through OMHAS. Since OMHAS' site survey revealed Braking Point was operating as a residential facility in an unlicensed capacity, ODM would not reimburse for services provided to Medicaid patients.

#### **IX. Services Billed By Braking Point Not Supported**

82. As part of the investigation, state and federal agents interviewed former employees of Braking Point. These former employees provided the information summarized below about the operation of the company and services provided.

83. Employee 1 provided the following information:

a.) Ryan Sheridan had been a business partner of Scotchie and Associates, which provided addiction counseling services and drug testing for individuals ordered by a court to receive treatment.

b.) Sheridan planned for Braking Point to expand and fill up the space of Scotchie and Associates, which was a three-story former hospital. Braking Point had 16 detox beds on the first floor, outpatient services on the second floor, and the third floor has administrative space.

c.) Sheridan paid to have the facility at 45 North Canfield Niles Road remodeled. On April 13, 2016, Sheridan opened the new residential unit. Sheridan told Employee 1 Braking Point had to be approved by OMHAS to be paid by Medicaid for detox services. Sheridan told Employee 1 that he was not going to get a license to have residential beds because Braking Point was not charging patients for the beds.



d.) When Sheridan opened the Braking Point facility in Whitehall, Sheridan put TD in charge of that facility. TD's brother, JD, operates sober living houses in the Warren/Youngtown area.

e.) The billing at Braking Point was very secretive. Employees provided daily billing sheets to JMS. These sheets would include the client's name, client's number, services provided, the start time, and duration of the services. The services marked on these sheets included case management, group, or crisis intervention.

f.) Case notes were written by hand and were supposed to be completed within 72 hours. The case managers at Braking Point were behind in their notes, and supervisors had to sign as many as 400 notes a day. A patient's Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) must be completed within three days of a patient being brought into detox, and these ITPs were not being done at Braking Point.

g.) The file room at Braking Point was on the third floor and was in disarray. The file room had a table with piles of charts and stacks of notes. Files were not complete and they contained blank releases of information.

h.) Braking Point far exceeded the 1:12 ratio required for outpatient groups. An employee began questioning and pointing out to Sheridan and KG that there were too many people in groups.

84. Employee 2 provided the following information:

a.) Ryan Sheridan was the owner and JMS was responsible for billing at Braking Point.

b.) Clients in the residential program stayed at Braking Point for approximately 28 days.

c.) Counselors were behind on their group notes most of the time because of the volume of patients. Counselors would run five group sessions in one day, which equated to counselors having to prepare approximately 60 or more individual notes for one day.

d.) Each client had a chart, but there was not much in the charts. The notes that should have been in the chart were not filed in the charts. A counselor brought his/her concerns about missing notes to LC (the Clinical Director and Compliance Officer) and was told the notes would be filed. Employee 2 felt no one at Braking Point seemed to be in charge of putting charts together. Braking Point never did internal audits and there was no concern over missing notes. There would be piles of notes stacked in the office, but Employee 2 never saw a note he/she prepared in a chart. Assessments and Plans of Care were not in the charts as required. Braking Point clients had Individual Service Plans (ISPs) done when they had their assessments completed, but Employee 2 stated they seemed generic.

e.) Although Employee 2 did not have his/her chart notes completed, Employee 2 was required to turn in his/her time sheets every day. Employee 2 heard that Braking Point billed off the time sheets regardless if there was a note to support the billing. There were times when patients in the residential program would finish their 28 days of treatment and notes were still not completed. Employee 2's timesheets contained the time of the group and a list of who attended. Braking Point had high employee turnover and these staff would leave without completing their notes.

f.) A counselor talked to LC about the notes, and LC stated he/she told JMS about the notes being so far behind. Notes were a month to two months behind, even though they are supposed to be completed within 72 hours of a counseling session.

g.) Braking Point did not do any type of drug testing or criminal history checks when employees were hired.

85. Employee 3 provided the following information:

a.) Braking Point had a poor employee handbook, there was no training for employees, no HIPAA officer, no training regarding HIPAA, no authorization to release information that met government requirements, and employees were not given policies and procedures.

b.) Braking Point employees had personnel files, but they were lacking required information. Employees did not have to have a drug screening or criminal history background checks, the HHS exclusion database was not checked, and fingerprints were not checked. An employee spoke to Sheridan about the lack of chart auditing and HIPAA training.

c.) Management at Braking Point was afraid of an audit because there were no notes to support billings and the charts were a mess. LC, Ryan Sheridan, JMS, and KG talked all of the time about the notes being behind.

86. Employee 4 provided the following information:

a.) Braking Point had a Director of Housing, who reviewed the client's financial situation, determined if he/she was receiving Social Security, and evaluated the client's family situation in order to assist the client with housing.

b.) If the 36 bed supplemental unit was full, clients were placed in transitional houses known as sober houses. Braking Point transported clients from sober houses to Braking Point for classes. The typical day for an individual in transitional housing started at approximately 7 a.m., when Braking Point transported the patient to the facility for breakfast. The client then had a

daily average of six to eight hours of classes. Clients were provided lunch and dinner and, then, transported back to their sober house.

c.) Sheridan owned the gym that was located inside of Braking Point and all clients were required to go to the gym for a consultation and would work out for 60-90 minutes.

d.) JMS was the only billing person at Braking Point. JMS billed from home and sent e-mails to employees when she was at home.

e.) Braking Point's residential daily schedule was a generic schedule of the groups being held and the times. JMS only cared about the billing sheets and did not care about the case management notes. Billing sheets were handwritten. JMS told employees to bill in minutes and hours and not to use the actual times of the services. A client could be signed into a group for billing purposes and, then, leave for an individual counseling session, a crisis intervention, to go to the gym, or a smoke break - all while being recorded for billing as sitting in the group session.

f.) The patient charts are not organized, and it would be very difficult to find a complete chart. It was very hard to treat patients at Braking Point because you were unable to refer to a chart to see the patient's history or assessment.

87. Employee 5 provided the following information:

a.) JMS is solely responsible for doing the insurance billing at Braking Point. Counselors sent their timesheets to JMS daily and these timesheets were used for billing. Braking Point is constantly drug-testing patients in order to bill for that service.

b.) Ryan Sheridan had an expectation of making \$100,000.00 a week. Sheridan would scream at JMS if Braking Point only made \$50,000.00. Braking Point expected their counselors to have so many billable hours. KG was responsible for making sure counselors met their billable hours. JMS checked daily to make sure counselors turned in their timesheets. JMS

was not concerned if counselors had patient chart notes turned in, and was only concerned about being able to bill from the timesheet.

c.) Braking Point is operating inpatient beds without the proper license. Sheridan stated he had a work around to be able to have these additional inpatient beds.

d.) Employee 5 stated AS, VM, and TB were medical doctors at Braking Point.

88. Employee 6 provided the following information:

a.) Employee 6 explained the progression of a patient through Braking Point. The detox program has 16 beds, and lasts for seven days for drug detox and five days for alcohol detox. After detox, clients move to the supplemental program. The supplemental is a 28-day program where clients stay at Braking Point for 24 hours a day. Clients go to group and individual counseling as well as to the gym.

b.) After supplemental treatment patients go to day treatment. This program runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. for ten days. If a client lives at a sober house while in day treatment, Braking Point's vans transport the clients to and from treatment.

c.) Following day treatment, the client moves to the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). IOP is for eight weeks. After IOP, clients go to after care. During after care, clients go to Braking Point one day a week for two hours.

89. Employee 7 provided the following information:

a.) At the end of each day, Employee 7 turned his/her time sheets into JMS with the name of each client seen that day, the type of service, and the times the client was seen. Patient notes were not attached to the billing time sheets. Braking Point required employees to turn in the billing time sheets even if the notes were not done. Notes were always months and months

behind because Braking Point is too short-staffed, and there are too many groups. Employee 7 never received training on preparing notes or guidance on what was a billable service.

b.) Clients at Braking Point start out in the detox program for seven days, then go to residential for around 30 days, then day treatment for 10 days, then IOP for six to eight weeks, and finally aftercare for another six to eight weeks.

c.) Employee 7 stated Ryan Sheridan spent a lot of money on the gym at Braking Point. Patients left group sessions for personal training. Employee 7 saw stacks of papers for the gym trainers that appeared to be billing sheets.

d.) Employee 7 transferred from Austintown to Braking Point's Whitehall location. When Whitehall opened, nothing was organized. The Whitehall location had a 16 bed detox program, day treatment program, but no residential or IOP.

90. Employee 8 provided the following information:

a.) Employee 8 worked at Braking Point's Whitehall location. Employees from Braking Point's Austintown location came to Whitehall three or four times for "billing meetings". After these meetings, there would be some type of change implemented, and the billing sheet would be changed.

91. Employee 9 provided the following information:

a.) Employee 9 was employed at Braking Point's Whitehall location in the nursing department. TD and LP interviewed Employee 9. TD introduced himself as the owner and LP stated he/she was the CEO and attorney for the office. TD stated that Ryan Sheridan owns the Austintown location and is TD's partner at Whitehall. Braking Point was 100% Medicaid.

b.) When Employee 9 started at Braking Point, TD and LP stated that all nursing staff, including supervisors, were expected to bill 120 minutes per patient for the 16 patients in

detox during his/her 12-hour work shift. In total, all detox patients were to be billed 240 minutes of medical somatic a day.

c.) Employee 9 was in a meeting with TD, LP, another person, Ryan Sheridan, and JMS. Sheridan and JMS attended by telephone. The Austintown location sent Whitehall a list of items that needed correction. During this meeting, the White Hall location was reprimanded for nurses not meeting their billing quota.

d.) TD told Employee 9 that obtaining 120 minutes of billable medical somatic was easy. TD said to go smoke with the patients, sit with them in the TV room, and check to see if patients were in their bed. Since it was impossible to obtain 120 minutes for each patient, TD said to count discussion with a group of patients as medical somatic. TD said a patient should be discharged if the timesheet did not have 120 minutes.

e.) Employee 9 would check off on his/her timesheet med somatic, passing out medication, taking vitals, checking to see if patient is sleeping in their bed and stable, patient education, and drug testing.

f.) LP, TD, Sheridan and JMS were e-mailed daily a spreadsheet summarizing the nurse billings for the day. TD reviewed these reports and would call if a patient had less than 120 minutes.

g.) Patients at White Hall were excessively drug tested, including those in an inpatient program. This is worthless because the patients attending the 28-day program were supposed to be monitored by a Braking Point employee 24 hours a day.

92. Employee 10 provided the following information:

a.) Nurses worked straight from treatment protocols based on the patient's addiction, including the "Opiate Withdrawal Protocol." Dr. TB would sign the "Opiate Withdrawal



Protocol” at the bottom of the form. Nurses would give patients Suboxone as indicated on the protocol prior to patients being seen by a doctor. Nurses would only contact the doctor if a patient needed additional Suboxone. Braking Point did not have a policy that a patient had to be seen by a doctor within the first 24 hours. Sometimes patients would be in the detox unit for 48 hours without seeing a doctor. In one instance, a patient was in the detox unit for 5 days without seeing a doctor.

b.) Anytime Suboxone was given, nurses recorded the dispensing in the “Narc log”. The night shift had to turn a copy of the “Narc Log” into JMS’ mailbox.

c.) Nurses were given a form to use in the residential/supplemental unit. The form listed the patients’ names and contained a column for vitals and a column for PRNs. (PRNs are medications administered per the protocol.) JMS wanted this form completed for the patients in supplemental and placed in her mailbox daily.

d.) In Carelogic, nurses had to chart all activities under a section called Med Somatic. Employee 10 did not know what med somatic meant.

e.) Patient’s whereabouts needed recorded by nurses on an “Hourly Check” form. When Carelogic started being used, management wanted bed checks recorded in the system every hour. A nurse would walk around the unit, while the patients were sleeping, and shine a pen light on them. Employee 10 would divide the number of occupied beds in detox by 60 minutes to determine how much time he/she recorded for each patient’s bed check.

93. Employee 11 provided the following information:

a.) Employee 11 had conversations with Ryan Sheridan about how controlled narcotics were being dispensed. Sheridan told Employee 11 not to worry about it. Employee 11 responded that it was a big deal because you are passing out medication.

b.) JMS was overlapping billing time for group therapy with times patients were receiving medication. Employee 11 told JMS that you cannot bill for a patient being in group when they are absent getting their medication.

c.) The nurses would start a patient on a drug protocol. Patients would be given medication, to include Suboxone, off this protocol on day one, prior to seeing the doctor. The doctor was only called if there was something abnormal.

d.) Dr. AS was rarely at the facility and Dr. TB saw the patients. Dr. AS came only if Dr. TB was out. Dr. TB would sign the orders for medication.

e.) Employee 11 was aware that Dr. TB did not have the appropriate authority to dispense narcotic drugs for addiction treatment under DATA 2000. Employee 11 asked JMS how Dr. TB was allowed to sign Suboxone orders. JMS replied that technically the Suboxone is ordered under Dr. AS, but Dr. TB was just signing off.

f.) JMS did all the medical billing and ordering of medication.

g.) JMS told the nursing staff to take vitals every shift so it could be billed. Employee 11 felt there was no reason to take a patient's vitals if he/she was stable and not on blood pressure medication.

94. Employee 12 provided the following information:

a.) Braking Point had a 36 bed residential unit. KG told the nurses at a meeting to stop calling this unit residential. KG stated residential implied the patient was living at Braking Point. KG wanted the 36 beds called "supplemental" because she said Braking Point was providing a service to patients.

b.) JMS would give the nursing director orders to pass down to nurses. Nurses were told to record no less than five (5) minutes for any activity. Employee 12 stated it did not take

five minutes to administer an ibuprofen. Nurses were told to take a patient's vitals every time they administered any medication.

c.) After Carelogic started, JMS stated that Braking Point would go under if nurses did not start billing more. In Carelogic, nurses recorded all of their activities in a section called "med somatic."

d.) In Carelogic, Braking Point staff was supposed to record events in real time. Nurses would try to record giving a patient a medication at the actual time but could not because Carelogic showed the patient as being in a group. Nurses had to find open time in Carelogic to record the dispensing of medications. As such, Carelogic did not accurately reflect a patient's care.

e.) Nurses knew Dr. TB was not a DATA waiver physician. It was understood that Dr. AS would be responsible for the prescriptions, but Dr. TB would actually be treating the patients. Dr. TB did not take the extra educational classes to obtain a DATA certification. Dr. AS was the only doctor at Braking Point authorized to write Suboxone prescriptions.

95. Employee 13 provided the following information:

a.) Dr. TB saw patients and signed off on Suboxone and Vivitrol orders for inpatient clients. Dr. TB was at Braking Point a couple times a week and signed all inpatient medication orders.

b.) Braking Point had a detox program and a 28-day residential treatment program. The term "residential" was switched to "supplemental." KG yelled at employees and said to call the program supplemental. KG said there was a billing reason why the program needed to be called "supplemental." The treatment remained the same and did not change with the terminology. JMS also said to call the program supplemental.

c.) Nurses were given a form to use in the residential/supplemental unit. The form listed the patients' names and contained a column for vitals and a column for PRNs. Employee 13 learned that the form was used for billing by JMS for med somatic. JMS would bill for taking vitals. If the sheet was not filled out, JMS would say that she needed the form for billing.

d.) When Braking Point switched to computerized medical records in Carelogic, JMS got angry at the nursing staff for not billing for 15 minutes for doing a client's vitals and another 15 minutes for administering medication. JMS said that anything the nursing staff did should be billed in 15 minute increments using the med somatic code. Employee 13 advised it took him/her only two minutes to do vitals even though he/she was told to bill for 15 minutes.

e.) When Braking Point started with Carelogic, JMS wanted the nursing staff to bill for med somatic for each hourly bed check.

f.) JMS gave the nursing staff a quota for billing after Carelogic was implemented. JMS wanted the nursing staff to bill 4-6 hours of nursing care per client per day.

**X. Interview of JMS on October 18, 2017**

96. On October 18, 2017, JMS was interviewed by FBI Special Agents. The interview was conducted in conjunction with the execution of search warrants at her residence and at the Braking Point facilities in Austintown, Ohio. Among other things, JMS stated the following:

a.) JMS handled billing at Braking Point. JMS has been with Braking Point since its inception in 2015. KG, JMS, and Ryan Sheridan were the primary individuals that decided to open Braking Point.

b.) At the beginning of Braking Point, all of the employees kept their own logs and sign in sheets. JMS billed Medicaid based on the information on these sheets. JMS explained

that there were only ten (10) codes that she could bill and that they were basic codes from Medicaid. JMS stated that there is a code book that explained the billing codes. There are also explanations on the Medicaid website. Ryan Sheridan received training when he was certified through the state.

c.) Braking Point had 16 detox beds. After detox, clients went to supplemental living. JMS did not know why they did not call this inpatient treatment. It was called supplemental because it was in addition to detox. All services in supplemental living were considered outpatient. Ryan Sheridan handled all of the certifications for Braking Point.

d.) Braking Point had two doctors. Dr. AS handled the Medical Assisted Treatment Program. Dr. AS was supposed to be at Braking Point once a week. It then became twice a month. Nurses would contact a doctor if there were issues with a client. There were standard protocols in place for what medicines were to be given. JMS ordered Suboxone from Barry's Pharmacy. JMS advised that Braking Point had a standing order.

e.) Dr. TB also worked at Braking Point. Dr. TB worked three days a week, and did histories and physicals with clients.

f.) Nurses made a log sheet of medicine administered. This log sheet documented their time spent with the client. JMS billed Medicaid based on the log sheets and sign-in sheets. With regard to the medical somatic codes, JMS stated: "We encouraged them to bill as much time as they could because the clients were sick."

g.) When clients went to the gym, JMS billed for case management. Ryan Sheridan told JMS to bill this time as case management. Braking Point had organized classes for spinning and yoga.

h.) Braking Point stopped using paper charting and began using electronic charting in approximately May of 2017. JMS stated that billing for the medical somatic code dropped with the change to electronic charting. JMS stated that Braking Point was not getting the money they used to get. JMS said that Braking Point nurses had to increase their medical somatic time.

i.) After Carelogic was implemented, JMS estimated that Braking Point's billing reimbursement per the medical somatic code dropped by approximately \$50,000 - \$100,000 per week. Nurses had a hard time scheduling patients and were not able to document the time spent with patients. Ryan Sheridan noticed that the medical somatic time dropped because the money dropped. JMS texted Sheridan about the drop in the medical somatic billing. Sheridan told JMS that Braking Point was going to go bankrupt. Before electronic charting, JMS billed more for medical somatic and not as many group codes. Medical somatic paid more.

#### **XI. Braking Point's Narcotic Treatment Program and DEA Inspection of Dr. AS**

97. On September 27, 2017, the DEA Diversion Unit conducted a regulatory inspection on Dr. AS at his registered location of 45 North Canfield Niles Road, Austintown, Ohio to review Dr. AS's prescribing of buprenorphine products for drug addiction treatment. When the DEA arrived at Braking Point for this inspection, the receptionist stated Dr. AS was in Utah. JMS met with the DEA Diversion Agents, and told them she is in charge of billing at Braking Point. JMS stated Braking Point operates a 16-bed detox unit. According to JMS, Braking Point patients are 100% Medicaid because it is too difficult to handle private pay and commercial insurance. JMS stated Braking Point provides free on-site housing for patients attending Braking Point's supplemental treatment program. JMS stated Dr. AS is at the facility two times a month, and has standing orders on the medication to be dispensed to patients. JMS stated Braking Point uses an electronic medical system for patient charts.

98. On October 3, 2017, DEA investigators met with Dr. AS to conduct an inspection. During the inspection, Dr. AS was asked to discuss how the detox program works, and Dr. AS stated that when patients enter the program they are evaluated by a physician the same day or the day after. Dr. AS stated that on first arrival the patient is evaluated by a nurse, and vitals and medical history are taken. Dr. AS said the program has two paths, one for alcohol addiction treatment and one for opioid addiction treatment, and then discussed the opioid addiction protocol. Dr. AS stated that the patient gets a tapered dose of Suboxone during the entire seven to nine day stay. Every day the nurse checks the patient and, if the patient has complaints, they call Dr. TB and discuss the patient's status. (Dr. TB was another physician at Braking Point.) Dr. TB then addresses the patient's concerns, mostly attempting to keep the patient comfortable during the withdrawal. According to Dr. AS, Dr. TB will come in almost every day and see the patient.

99. Dr. AS stated "I rarely see patients in detox", adding that new patient intakes are seen by Dr. TB. Dr. AS was asked if Dr. TB sees the patient and writes the order for Suboxone. Dr. AS stated that "no, we have a standing order. We have a protocol that folks will follow and he (Dr. TB) will sign off on it." Dr. AS was asked if Dr. TB would make the determination if Suboxone is appropriate for the patient and Dr. AS answered "absolutely".

100. Dr. AS was asked if Dr. TB is determining the dose or just signing off on whether or not the detox patient can start the protocol. Dr. AS stated, "We don't customize anything for anybody", and commented that "it's not like I used this much more heroin than this guy did so I get more". Dr. AS then said again that there's no customization, and added "it's like this is what you get." Dr. AS stated that he/she understood that he/she is responsible for all of his/her



Suboxone purchases, and stated he/she was very comfortable with Dr. TB dispensing from his/her supply.

101. Braking Point had a wholesale account to order medications with Berry's Pharmacy in Austintown, Ohio. The account was established via a fax from KG sent on September 10, 2015. On the fax, KG provided Dr. AS's DEA registration number along with Braking Point's terminal distributor license from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. JMS at Braking Point would order Suboxone and Librium from Berry's Pharmacy via a telephonic order every week or two. Checks issued by Braking Point to pay Berry's Pharmacy were signed by Ryan Sheridan. The pharmacists at Berry's Pharmacy had never spoken to Dr. AS nor had Dr. AS come into the pharmacy to place an order. When interviewed, Dr. AS stated he/she was unaware his/her DEA registration number was being used to order medications, including Suboxone, and did not authorize its use.

102. The Controlled Substances Act and its implementing regulations require a separate registration for each principal place of business or professional practice at one general physical location where controlled substances are manufactured, distributed, imported, exported, or dispensed. Every practitioner (individual or institutional) that dispenses or proposes to dispense a controlled substance for maintenance or detoxification treatment must obtain a DEA registration as a Narcotic Treatment Program.

103. On October 17, 2000, Congress passed the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) which authorized qualified physicians, after receiving a waiver from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to treat patients with opioid addiction with FDA approved buprenorphine products such as Suboxone, a Schedule III controlled substance, in an office setting. The DATA 2000 legislation waived the requirement

for obtaining a separate DEA registration as a Narcotic Treatment Program for qualified physicians administering, dispensing, and prescribing these specific FDA approved controlled substances. DATA 2000 authorized qualified physicians registered with the DEA as practitioners to obtain a waiver, which would then authorize them to conduct maintenance and detoxification treatment using specifically approved Schedule III, IV, or V narcotic medications. Only qualified physicians are allowed to prescribe, administer, or dispense narcotic drugs for the treatment of opioid addiction.

104. Dr. AS was the only DEA registrant at Braking Point with a DATA waiver. Since Dr. AS was not making the medical determination for the buprenorphine (including Suboxone) orders, then neither Braking Point nor any other practitioner was authorized - by waiver or registration - to order, administer or dispense buprenorphine products for detoxification of narcotic dependent patients.

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### **Bank Account 1:**

105. On December 18, 2014, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Talmer Bank and Trust, now known as Chemical Bank, in the name of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC, ending in xxx1207 (Bank Account 1). Sheridan is a signer on the account, along with KG starting in August 2015.

106. Approximately \$11,877,178.56 was deposited into Bank Account 1 between December 2014 and May 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From June 2015 through July 2016, Bank Account 1 received approximately \$5,805,562.91 in electronic payments from the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

b.) From July 2016 through May 2017, Bank Account 1 received approximately \$5,067,494.36 in transfers from Bank Account 2, which is described below.

**Bank Account 2:**

107. On June 24, 2016, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Talmer Bank and Trust in the name of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC, ending in xxx1090 (Bank Account 2). Sheridan is the only signer on this account.

108. Approximately \$23,260,148.55 was deposited into Bank Account 2 between June 2016 and May 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From July 2016 through May 2017, Bank Account 2 received approximately \$16,669,547.12 in electronic payments from the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

b.) From July 2016 through April 2017, Bank Account 2 received approximately \$467,526.89 in transfers from Bank Account 1.

c.) From September 2016 through May 2017, Bank Account 2 received approximately \$6,072,919.96 in transfers from Bank Account 3, which is described below.

**Bank Account 3:**

109. On June 13, 2016, Articles of Organization for Sheridan Enterprises, LLC, were filed with the Ohio Secretary of State. On July 19, 2016, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Talmer Bank in the name of Sheridan Enterprises, LLC, ending in xxx2720 (Bank Account 3). Sheridan is the only signer on this account.

110. Approximately \$14,949,765.82 was deposited into Bank Account 3 between July 2016 and May 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From July 2016 through May 2017, Bank Account 3 received approximately \$13,997,715.88 in transfers from Bank Account 2.

b.) On January 20, 2017, approximately \$525,000.00 was transferred into Bank Account 3 from a line of credit taken out by Sheridan at Chemical Bank.

c.) On April 14, 2017, a check in the amount of approximately \$310,000.00 was deposited into Bank Account 3. The check was drawn on Bank Account 8, which is described below.

**Bank Account 4:**

111. On March 1, 2010, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at First Place Bank, in his own name ending in xxx2710 (Bank Account 4). Sheridan is the only signer on this account.

112. As of December 31, 2015, the balance of Bank Account 4 was approximately \$1,252.52. Approximately \$3,265,872.00 was deposited into this account from January 2016 through May 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From March 2016 to July 2016, Bank Account 4 received at least \$2,365,643.00 in transfers from Bank Account 1.

b.) From August 2016 through April 2017, Bank Account 4 received at least \$750,000.00 in transfers from Bank Account 3.

c.) On June 28, 2016, Bank Account 4 received approximately \$100,000.00 via a transfer from Bank Account 6, which is described below.

**Bank Account 5:**

113. On August 27, 2016, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Talmer Bank and Trust in his own name ending in xxx5356 (Bank Account 5). Sheridan is the only signer on this account.

a.) From September 2016 through April 2017, Bank Account 5 received at least \$3,700,000.00 in transfers from Bank Account 3.

b.) From October 2016 through May 2017, checks from Bank Account 1 totaling approximately \$186,073.96 were deposited into Bank Account 5.

**Bank Account 6:**

114. On January 19, 2016, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Talmer Bank and Trust in the name of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC, dba Braking Point Drivers Intervention Program ending in xxx1605 (Bank Account 6). Sheridan, KG, and PB were all signers on the account until August 2016, when PB was removed as a signer.

115. As of June 23, 2016, the balance of Bank Account 6 was \$6,223.96. Thereafter, on June 24, 2016, Bank Account 6 received \$100,000.00 via transfer from Bank Account 1, which was transferred to Bank Account 4 on June 28, 2016.

**Bank Account 7:**

116. On April 18, 2017, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Huntington National Bank in the name of Sheridan Enterprises, LLC, ending in xxx3545 (Bank Account 7). Sheridan is the sole signer on the account, and Sheridan is listed as the sole member of Sheridan Enterprises, LLC.

117. Approximately \$5,591,949.13 was deposited into Bank Account 7 between April 18, 2017 and August 16, 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From May 2017 through August 2017, Bank Account 7 received approximately \$3,981,838.12 in transfers from Bank Account 8, which is described below.

b.) On May 25, 2017, Sheridan wire transferred approximately \$500,000.00 into Bank Account 7 from Bank Account 2.

c.) On June 2, 2017, Sheridan wire transferred \$500,000.00 into Bank Account 7 from Bank Account 2.

d.) On April 28, 2017, Sheridan wire transferred approximately \$20,000.00 into Bank Account 7 from Bank Account 3 and, on May 18, 2017, Sheridan wire transferred approximately \$500,000.00 into Bank Account 7 from Bank Account 3.

e.) On July 18, 2017, a deposit of \$90,070.04 was transferred into Bank Account 7 from an account for which supporting documentation has not yet been received.

**Bank Account 8:**

118. On January 25, 2017, Sheridan opened a bank account at Huntington National Bank in the name of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC, ending in xxx4279 (Bank Account 8). Sheridan is the sole signer on the account, and Sheridan is listed as the president, owner, and CEO of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC.

119. Approximately \$6,288,359.27 was deposited into Bank Account 8 between January 2017 and August 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From June 2017 through August 2017, Bank Account 8 received approximately \$4,428,007.06 in nine electronic payments from the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

b.) From May 2017 through August 2017, Bank Account 8 received approximately \$1,063,177.27 in transfers from Bank Account 7.

c.) From April 2017 through May 2017, Bank Account 8 received approximately \$490,000.00 in transfers from Bank Account 3.

d.) On May 10, 2017, Bank Account 8 received approximately \$175,000.00 via a transfer from Bank Account 2.

e.) On May 24, 2017, Bank Account 8 received approximately \$80,000.00 via a transfer from Bank Account 9, which is described below.

**Bank Account 9:**

120. On April 17, 2017, Ryan Sheridan opened a bank account at Huntington National Bank in the name of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC, ending in xxx3480 (Bank Account 9). Sheridan is the sole signer on the account, and Sheridan is listed as the sole member of Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC.

121. Approximately \$1,780,530.48 was deposited into Bank Account 9 between April 2017 and August 2017, which consisted of the following:

a.) From May 2017 through August 2017, Bank Account 9 received approximately \$1,189,239.62 in transfers from Bank Account 7.

b.) From May 2017 through August 2017, Bank Account 9 received approximately \$590,863.88 in transfers from Bank Account 8.

**Transactions in Excess of \$10,000.00 Conducted by Ryan Sheridan.**

122. Ryan Sheridan conducted numerous transactions in excess of \$10,000.00 using funds from bank accounts that were funded, either directly or indirectly, by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. These transactions include the following:

a.) On May 16, 2016, Sheridan purchased a cashier's check from Bank Account 1 for \$29,114.25 payable to Metro Land Title Agency. Mahoning County property records show that on May 19, 2016, Braking Point Recovery Housing, LLC, acquired the title to a property located at xxx Alameda Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio for \$29,000.00.

b.) On July 12, 2016, Sheridan wired \$22,500.00 from Bank Account 4 to an individual in Israel with the initials "A.F.". Sheridan stated on the Foreign Transfer Request that funds were for the purchase of an Omega watch.

c.) On August 3, 2016, Sheridan wired \$51,300.00 from Bank Account 4 to Paul Casey Entertainment to purchase a 1981 DeLorean DMC Gullwing, Vehicle Identification Number: SCEDT26T1BD006297. The vehicle is a Hollywood reproduction of the vehicle featured in the movie "Back to the Future". Title information from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles shows that the vehicle is currently titled to Sheridan's Cool Cars, LLC.

d.) On August 3, 2016, Sheridan withdrew \$92,556.11 from Bank Account 3, which he converted to a cashier's check payable to Cole Valley Motors. Records from Cole Valley Motors confirm that on August 3, 2016, Sheridan purchased a 2016 Cadillac Escalade ESV, Vehicle Identification Number: 1GYS4JKJ8GR403801, with this cashier's check. Title information from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles shows that the vehicle is titled to Braking Point Recovery Center, LLC.

e.) On August 25, 2016, Sheridan withdrew \$100,000.00 in currency from Bank Account 4. When asked by bank employees if he would accept the cash in another form, Sheridan stated he wanted it in cash.

f.) On September 8, 2016, Sheridan wired \$158,359.00 from Bank Account 4 to Ideal Classic Cars, LLC. Records from Ideal Classic Cars, LLC, show that the wire was for the purchase of a 1995 Chevrolet Caprice Classic Wagon, VIN: 1G1BL82P4SR124711, which is a Hollywood reproduction of the Batmobile. Title Information from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles shows that this vehicle is currently titled to Ryan P. Sheridan.

g.) On September 19, 2016, Sheridan wired \$1,000,050.00 from Bank Account 4 to LPL Financial. These monies were used to purchase approximately 123,635.251 shares of FS Energy & Power Fund, which were held in an investment account at LPL Financial ending xxxx-4688. Sheridan opened investment account xxxx-4688 on September 9, 2016.



h.) On October 12, 2016, Sheridan wired \$140,359.00 from Bank Account 4 to Ideal Classic Cars, LLC. Records from Ideal Classic Cars, LLC, show that the wire was for the purchase of a 1959 Cadillac Hearse, Vehicle Identification Number: 59Z023268, which is a Hollywood reproduction of the Ghostbusters vehicle. Title information from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles shows that this vehicle is currently titled to Ryan P. Sheridan.

i.) On October 18, 2016, Sheridan withdrew \$50,000.00 in currency from Bank Account 5. Talmer Bank and Trust filed a report with FINCEN confirming that the withdrawal was in currency.

j.) On October 18, 2016, Sheridan withdrew \$42,606.39 from Bank Account 1, which he converted into a cashier's check payable to Greenwood Chevy for the purchase of a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado 2500, Vehicle Identification Number: 1GC2KVEG7FZ533179, from Greenwood Chevrolet, Inc. Title information from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles shows that this vehicle was initially titled to Braking Point; on April 12, 2017, Sheridan transferred the title to Braking Point Leasing, LLC.

k.) On February 28, 2017, Sheridan purchased from Bank Account 3 a cashier's check for \$49,011.29 payable to Metro Land Title Agency. Mahoning County property records show that on March 1, 2017, Sheridan acquired the title to a property located in Austintown, Ohio for \$48,000.00. This property is the residence of JMS.

l.) On June 28, 2017, Sheridan withdrew a total of \$50,000.00 in currency from a combination of Bank Account 3 and Bank Account 5. Chemical Bank filed a report with FINCEN confirming that the withdrawal was in currency.

### **THE DEFENDANT PROPERTY**

123. Ryan Sheridan purchased the defendant property (namely, 41079 Spring Hill Drive, Leetonia, Columbiana County, Ohio; Parcel Numbers: 16-01867.028 and 16-01867.009) on or about September 23, 2016. The settlement of transaction was conducted by Metro Land Title Agency, Inc. Sheridan titled the property in his own name.

124. On or about September 22, 2016, Ryan Sheridan wired \$792,028.39 to Metro Land Title Agency, Inc., from Bank Account 4. This wire transfer paid for the purchase of the defendant property in whole per the transaction settlement statement. Sheridan did not use a mortgage or financing to purchase the property.

125. As described above, Bank Account 4 is a personal bank account in the name of Ryan Sheridan. Sheridan is the only signer on the account.

126. From January 2016 through May 2017, approximately \$3,265,872.00 was deposited into Bank Account 4, of which at least \$2,365,643.00 was transferred in from Bank Account 1. Bank Account 1 was funded almost entirely via electronic payments from the Ohio Department of Medicaid. As described above, additional deposits into Bank Account 4 consisted of transfers from accounts (namely, Bank Account 3 and Bank Account 6) that were indirectly funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

127. On or about October 25, 2016, 41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC, was formed with the Ohio Secretary of State.

128. On January 11, 2017, Ryan Sheridan took out a line of credit with Chemical Bank in the amount of \$640,000.00. Sheridan used the defendant property as collateral for the line of credit.

129. On January 20, 2017, Ryan Sheridan withdrew \$525,000.00 from the line of credit. (As described above, Sheridan had this \$525,000.00 deposited into Bank Account 3.)

130. On January 27, 2017, Ryan Sheridan withdrew an additional \$1,802.75 from the line of credit to cover fees associated with the line of credit.

131. On or about February 13, 2017, Ryan Sheridan transferred title to the defendant property to 41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC. The transfer was made via a quit claim deed for no consideration.

132. As described above, 41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC, is a sole member limited liability company. Ryan Sheridan is the sole member and sole manager of the company, serving as the company president and/or treasurer.

133. Ryan Sheridan has made the following payments on the line of credit with Chemical Bank:

a.) On April 4, 2017, Sheridan made a payment of \$2,221.34 from Bank Account 5. Bank Account 5 is described above.

b.) On April 28, 2017, Sheridan made a payment of \$1,722.57 from Bank Account 3. Bank Account 3 is described above.

c.) On May 16, 2017, Sheridan made a payment of \$10,000.00 from Bank Account 3.

d.) On June 19, 2017, Sheridan made a payment of \$10,000.00 from Bank Account 3.

e.) On June 28, 2017, Sheridan made a payment of \$511,727.23 from Bank Account

9. As described above, Bank Account 9 was funded via transfers from accounts (namely, Bank Account 7 and Bank Account 8) that received funds directly and indirectly from the Ohio Department of Medicaid. This payment brought the line of credit account balance to \$0.00.

134. As of April 17, 2018, the account balance for Ryan Sheridan's line of credit with Chemical Bank was \$0.00.

### CONCLUSION

127. By reason of the foregoing, the defendant property is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) in that it constitutes – or is derived from – proceeds traceable to violation(s) of 18 U.S.C. § 1347 (health care fraud) and 18 U.S.C. § 1349 (conspiracy to commit health care fraud).

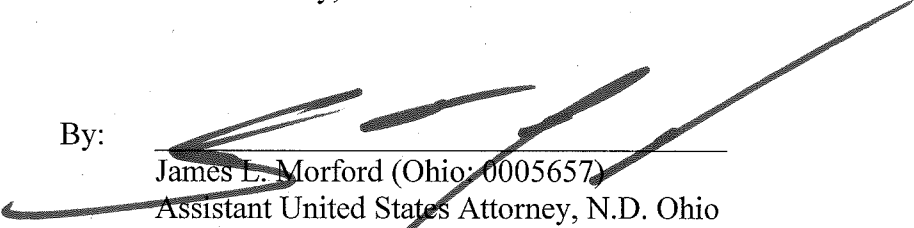
128. By reason of the foregoing, the defendant property also is subject to forfeiture to the United States under 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) in that it was involved in a transaction(s) in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (money laundering), or is property traceable to such property.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff, the United States of America, respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment condemning the defendant property and forfeiting it to the United States, and providing that the defendant property be delivered into the custody of the United States for disposition according to law, and for such other relief as this Court may deem proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin E. Herdman  
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:



James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)  
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio  
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House  
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
216.622.3743 / Fax: 216.522.7499  
James.Morford@usdoj.gov

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF OHIO                    )  
  ) SS.  
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA        )

I, James L. Morford, under penalty of perjury, depose and say that I am an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and the attorney for the plaintiff in the within entitled action. The foregoing Complaint in Forfeiture is based upon information officially provided to me and, to my knowledge and belief, is true and correct.

  
James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)  
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 30th day of April, 2018.

  
Notary Public

DANIEL R. RANKE, Attorney At Law  
Notary Public - State of Ohio  
My commission has no expiration date.  
Section 147.03 O. R. C.

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

James L. Morford, Assistant U.S. Attorney - 400 U.S. Court House,  
801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 - 216.622.3743

**DEFENDANTS**

The Real Property Located at 41079 Spring Hill Drive, Leetonia,  
Columbiana County, Ohio

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Columbiana County  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant  
☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  
☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant).

- |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding  
☐ 2 Removed from State Court  
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court  
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened  
☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer  
☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause:

Civil Forfeiture Action under 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(C) and 18 U.S.C. Section 981(a)(1)(A).

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☐ No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE John R. Adams

DOCKET NUMBER N.D. Ohio 4:18-CV-664

DATE

05/02/2018

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

I. Civil Categories: (Please check one category only).

1. ☒ General Civil  
 2. ☐ Administrative Review/Social Security  
 3. ☐ Habeas Corpus Death Penalty

\*If under Title 28, §2255, name the SENTENCING JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

II. **RELATED OR REFILED CASES.** See LR 3.1 which provides in pertinent part: "If an action is filed or removed to this Court and assigned to a District Judge after which it is discontinued, dismissed or remanded to a State court, and subsequently refiled, it shall be assigned to the same Judge who received the initial case assignment without regard for the place of holding court in which the case was refiled. Counsel or a party without counsel shall be responsible for bringing such cases to the attention of the Court by responding to the questions included on the Civil Cover Sheet."

This action is ☒ **RELATED** to another **PENDING** civil case. This action is ☐ **REFILED** pursuant to LR 3.1.

If applicable, please indicate on page 1 in section VIII, the name of the Judge and case number.

III. In accordance with Local Civil Rule 3.8, actions involving counties in the Eastern Division shall be filed at any of the divisional offices therein. Actions involving counties in the Western Division shall be filed at the Toledo office. For the purpose of determining the proper division, and for statistical reasons, the following information is requested.

ANSWER ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY. ANSWER PARAGRAPHS 1 THRU 3 IN ORDER. UPON FINDING WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES TO YOUR CASE, ANSWER IT AND STOP.

(1) **Resident defendant.** If the defendant resides in a county within this district, please set forth the name of such county

**COUNTY:** Columbiana County

**Corporation** For the purpose of answering the above, a corporation is deemed to be a resident of that county in which it has its principal place of business in that district.

(2) **Non-Resident defendant.** If no defendant is a resident of a county in this district, please set forth the county wherein the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred.

**COUNTY:**

(3) **Other Cases.** If no defendant is a resident of this district, or if the defendant is a corporation not having a principle place of business within the district, and the cause of action arose or the event complained of occurred outside this district, please set forth the county of the plaintiff's residence.

**COUNTY:**

IV. The Counties in the Northern District of Ohio are divided into divisions as shown below. After the county is determined in Section III, please check the appropriate division.

**EASTERN DIVISION**

☐  
☐  
☒

AKRON  
 CLEVELAND  
 YOUNGSTOWN

(Counties: Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne)  
 (Counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Richland)  
 (Counties: Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull)

**WESTERN DIVISION**

☐

TOLEDO

(Counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca VanWert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO.
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	JUDGE
v.	)	
	)	
THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT	)	
41079 SPRING HILL DRIVE, LEETONIA,	)	
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO;	)	
PARCEL NUMBERS: 16-01867.028 AND	)	
16-01867.009,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

**To: 41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC / Ryan P. Sheridan**

The above-captioned forfeiture action was filed in U.S. District Court on May 2, 2018. A copy of the Complaint in Forfeiture is attached. If you (41079 Spring Hill Drive, LLC) claim an interest in the defendant property, the following applies:

Pursuant to Rule G of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, you are required to file with the Court, and serve upon James L. Morford, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is United States Attorney's Office, 400 United States Court House, 801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113, a verified claim to the defendant property within 35 days after your receipt of the complaint. The claim shall contain the information required by Rule G(5) of the said Supplemental Rules. Additionally, you must file and serve an answer to the complaint, or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of




Civil Procedure, within 21 days after the filing of the claim, exclusive of the date of filing. If you fail to do so, judgment will be taken for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Respectfully,

Justin E. Herdman  
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By:



James L. Morford (Ohio: 0005657)  
Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio  
Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House  
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
216.622.3743 / Fax: 216.522.7499  
James.Morford@usdoj.gov

Date: May 2, 2018

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO.
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	JUDGE
v.	)	
	)	
THE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT	)	
41079 SPRING HILL DRIVE, LEETONIA,	)	
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO;	)	
PARCEL NUMBERS: 16-01867.028 AND	)	
16-01867.009,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**NOTICE OF COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE AGAINST REAL PROPERTY**

The attached Complaint in Forfeiture, which seeks the forfeiture of the defendant property pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) (health care fraud) and 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A) (money laundering) was filed by the United States of America on May 2, 2018, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division.

Pursuant to Rule G(5)(a)(ii) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, in order to avoid forfeiture of the defendant property, any person or entity that asserts an interest in the defendant property must file a verified claim within 35 days after the date of posting of this notice or the date of delivery, if personally served.

Pursuant to Rule G(5)(a)(i), the claim must: (A) identify the specific property claimed; (B) identify the claimant and state the claimant's interest in the defendant property; and, (C) be signed by the claimant under penalty of perjury (*see*, 28 U.S.C. § 1746).

If you file a verified claim, you must then file an answer to the complaint (or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure) within 20 days after filing the verified claim. *See*, Rule G(5)(b).

The verified claim and answer (or motion) must be filed with the Office of the Clerk, United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House, 801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113; and, a copy of the claim and answer (or motion) must be sent to the United States Attorney's Office (Attention: Asset Forfeiture Section), 400 United States Court House, 801 West Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 985(c)(1)(B), this Notice of Complaint for Forfeiture Against Real Property shall be posted on the defendant property along with a copy of the Complaint in Forfeiture. If you fail to follow the requirements set forth above, judgment will be taken for the relief demanded in the complaint. You may wish to seek legal advice to protect your interests.

Justin E. Herdman  
U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio

By: 

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Assistant United States Attorney, N.D. Ohio  
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Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
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James.Morford@usdoj.gov

#### SERVICE RETURN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date posted on property

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name  
Title  
Agency